



DHS Today via E-mail

February 12, 2001



Putting on the brick –DHS' new home at Seventh and Main Streets in downtown Little Rock is getting a coat of brick as work on the five-story structure continues both inside and outside. The building should be finished in September.

DHS legislation is winding its way through the legislative process. Here is a list and status of bills that have been introduced so far during the legislative session:

SB 100 "Change the Name of the Benton Services Center to Arkansas Health Center" (Status passed both Committees and is on Senate Floor)

SB 340 "Permit Waiver of Minimum Staffing Requirements for Nursing Homes" (Introduced and assigned to Public Health Committee January 30.)

SB 303 "Deletes Arkansas Code 9-16-101 to 9-16-109, Family Preservation Services Program" (Introduced and assigned to Public Health Committee January 29.)

SB 360 "Provides Juvenile probation information to law enforcement" (Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee January 31)



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HB 1205 "Provides for the use of excess interest from the Arkansas Child Care Facilities Loan Guarantee Trust Fund to Support Professional and Quality Development Issues" (Currently passed the House and is assigned to Senate Public Health Committee on January 22.)

HB 1206 "Provides for certification that child care facilities have an appropriate Early Childhood Program" (Currently passed through House and Senate Committee and scheduled on Senate Floor)

HB 1465 "Amends 5-16-101 (c), To enable child protection videotaping" (Currently passed the House and transmitted to the Senate)

Casey Myers, a DCC employee in Perry County, got a taste of how generous her fellow DHS employees can be when she faced a tragedy last month. On January 2, Casey's home burned to the ground while she and her family were away from home. "Fire investigators were able to determine that the fire started in the breaker box," said Casey.



Besides losing everything possession they had, the family also lost some beloved pets in the fire. Immediately after the fire, the Perry County Administrator **Greg Spinks** and Family Service Specialist **Shealby Brasier** moved into action along with the rest of the Perry County staff. The family needed things like food and clothing. Casey said, "They got the word to my Supervisors in the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and they immediately sent out information and began gathering items. Before long we had phone calls, gifts, food, money, clothing and other needed items arriving at our home. The Perry County DHS staff organized a replacement shower for us and coordinated a way for people in the community to drop off items for us at the office."

The family, which includes Casey's two sons, **Alex**, 12 and **Devin**, 11 is living in a nearby home owned by a relative and is thankful for all the help they've received. She wanted to especially mention people who really helped her family. They include **Greg Spinks; Shealby Brasier; Ida Rose; Paula Maxwell; Patti Robinson; Diane Gray; DeWayne McConnell; Mary O'Connor; Tollece Sutter; Kathy Rankin; Sharon Moore; David Griffin; Margaret Whatley; Mary Harris; Faye Wilson; Cindy Pyle**; the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education; and employees of the DHS County offices in Polk, Conway, Yell and Van Buren counties.

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"I am humbled for I am sure I have forgotten to thank someone. I am so proud to be a part of the DHS family and I will never forget what everyone has done for my sons and me. Thanks to many good people we are doing well," Casey said.



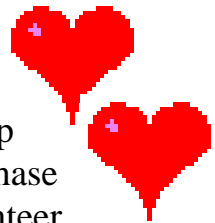
Millions of American children have nowhere to go once the bell rings after school. These children are at significant risk of getting poor grades, being victims of crime, or participating in anti-social behaviors that have grave consequences and costs to society. They are also missing out on tremendous opportunities to learn and grow. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and improve academic performance.

The Afterschool Alliance is an emerging alliance of public, private and nonprofit groups committed to raising awareness and expanding resources for afterschool programs. Initiated and currently coordinated by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Alliance grew out of a partnership between the Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Afterschool programs offer kids the sorts of activities that help them realize they have the potential to do better, to reach farther, than they ever imagined. Afterschool programs help build heroes.

To information on the programs, contact the Afterschool Alliance at P.O. Box 65166; Washington, DC 20035-5166; (202) 296-9378 or visit the its website at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

DHS is among companies invited by the American Heart Association to participate in "Dress Red Day" on Valentine's Day Feb. 14. This fundraiser is a favorite among companies because it allows them to offer employees a Dress Red Day or take it a step further to a casual day for a good cause. Employees may purchase heart-shaped "Dress Red Day" stickers for \$2 from DHS Volunteer Activities Council representatives to participate in this effort to prevent cardiovascular diseases. This event is a wrap-around event for the Heart Walk, which occurs in the fall, and proceeds will count toward DHS's Heart Walk goal. You can call **Kathy Hall**, 682-8608, or **Kandy Cayce**, 682-8265, for information.



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The State Employees Co-ed Softball League is looking for people in the Little Rock area to play ball. The league has been around for a long time and needs new players to add to its teams, or to form new teams. There have been nine teams for the last couple of years and they play once a week in Little Rock. To play in the league, you have to either be a state employee or



the spouse of a state employee. Cost varies, but usually runs less than \$30 for the season and some state agencies pay those fees for their team. Teams must have at least four females and six males to play. The league's game schedule starts in May and runs through the first week of August with a tournament at the end. Agency teams that have been playing for some time include those from Game & Fish, DHS, Soil & Water, Health Department, UAMS, TRW, Land Commissioner and the Highway and Transportation Department. If you're interested in joining a team or forming one, you can get more information from DHS employee **Becky Murphy** at 682-8096 or contact her via e-mail.

The Committee on Women's Concerns is holding its 15th Annual Arkansas Women's Conference on Friday, March 9, 2001 at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Little Rock. The theme of this year's conference is G.R.O.W.T.H. II: Growing Rich on Wisdom, Talent and Humor. Registration is \$50 and includes continental breakfast, luncheon, admission to all workshops and materials.

The featured speaker will be nationally recognized motivational speaker, **Patricia Fripp**. Fripp is the author of Get What You Want and Make It So You Don't Have to Fake It. Fifteen one-hour workshops will be offered during the day. Participants will be awarded continuing professional education (CPE) credits for workshops and sessions attended. There will also be exhibits with products and services of interest to women.

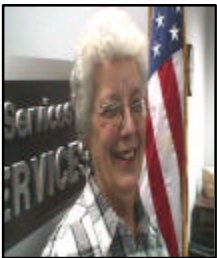
The closing session will feature **Karen Hardy**, publisher of the new women's magazine, "Arkansas Natural Woman."

For additional specific information on the conference, please go to the website: www.arkwomensconf.homestead.com. A printable registration form is available there. If you have questions, please contact **Valerie Davis** at (501) 791-2020.

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The DYS outstanding employee for February at AYSC is **Marilyn Moore**.

Marilyn is a 12-year veteran of DYS and works as an Administrative Assistant at the Central Arkansas Serious Offender/JUMP Program. Marilyn constantly volunteers to help others in our work environment. Recently, she was very instrumental in organizing the delivery/receiving of all the Christmas gifts purchased for the entire Alexander campus. Marilyn's supervisor, **Calvin Wilbon**, says that Marilyn's organizational skills and ability to effectively communicate has contributed tremendously in establishing a work environment that meets the needs of the juveniles we serve and the employees that work at JUMP. Marilyn's hobbies include tennis, fishing, reading and gardening. She also admits that playing with her new puppy is also an enjoyable past time.



The DYS outstanding employee for February at Central Office is Marilyn Overstreet. Marilyn is a Secretary II in the Community Services and Contracts section of Central Office. She has worked as a state employee for more than ten years in different positions. Marilyn's supervisor, **Joe Cardimona**, says that she is very conscientious and always willing to help. Her knowledge of DHS contracting and data analysis has been key in her developing administrative processes for DYS. She always maintains a positive attitude toward her work. Marilyn enjoys fishing and working with her yard. She has volunteered for activities with the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation including helping with the annual Race for the Cure that raises money for breast cancer research.

OOPS! In the last issue, **Lynn Whitaker's** name was left off of the list of people from DHS who are working on the AASIS project. There will be more about AASIS in a coming issue.

Do you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter? Send an email to Joyce.Williams@mail.state.ar.us. You can also fax items to (501) 682-6512 or call (501) 682-6580.

